

Claims

1. A laboratory apparatus comprising first and second cabinets interconnected by a passageway and means for closing said passageway, said first cabinet comprising an open front and means for circulating air within said first cabinet, said second cabinet being substantially sealed and having means for controlling the temperature within said second cabinet, means for controlling the level of at least one gas within said second cabinet and means to allow external inspection of the contents of said second cabinet.
2. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, in which said circulated air inside said first cabinet is passed through a filter in order to alleviate risk of contamination of the culture by airborne particles.
3. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in Claims 1 or 2, in which the circulated air inside the first cabinet forms an airflow, the airflow being a laminar flow which extends downwardly, parallel to said open front of said first cabinet.
4. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, in which means are provided for controlling the temperature inside said first and second cabinets.
5. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, in which means for closing the passageway comprises first and second closures which are spaced apart on the passageway with a space there between.
6. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in claim 5, in which said closures are interlocked to provide a time delay between opening of the closures.

7. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, in which means are provided for changing the air in the space between the two closures.

8. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, in which means are provided for transporting the cultures between said first and second cabinets through the passageway.

9. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, in which said means for controlling the level of at least one gas within the cabinet is arranged to control the level of carbon dioxide and/or oxygen within the cabinet.

10. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, in which means are provided for controlling the humidity inside said second cabinet.

11. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, in which means are provided for creating a pressure inside said second cabinet which is greater than atmospheric pressure.

12. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, in which said second cabinet comprises a transparent front wall through which the cultures can be inspected.

13. A laboratory apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, in which means are provided to enable manipulation of the cultures in said second cabinet.